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Application No. 10/687,745

Filed: October 20, 2003

TC Art Unit: 2154

Confirmation No.: 9250

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a primary access device connecting a first network to a second network over a primary connection, a method for providing a backup connection between said first network and said second network, said method comprising:

detecting a failure in said primary connection;

receiving, at said primary access device, a data packet originating from said first network and having a destination address at the ISO datalink layer 2;

replacing, in said data packet, said destination address with a backup access device datalink address identifying a backup access device capable of providing said backup connection; and

retransmitting, by said primary access device, said data packet with said replaced destination address to said backup access device over said first network.

whereby said replacing of said destination address with said backup access device datalink address enables a transmittal of said ~~received~~ data packet to said second network over said backup connection.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first network is a local area network (LAN).

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said second network is a wide area network (WAN).

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4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim-3\_1, wherein said local area network is an Ethernet-like network.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim-4\_1, wherein said wide area network is an IP-based network.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim-5\_1, wherein said data packet is a domain name server request.
7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising, before the step of replacing, performing an ARP request by the primary access device and further wherein said backup access device datalink address is provided by said backup access device in response to said ARP request.
8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said backup access device IP network station address is provided to said primary access device at a predetermined time.
9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said primary access device comprises domain name server relay and cache service, further comprising emptying said cache after said detecting of said failure in said primary connection.

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10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising creating a direct ISO layer 2 datalink connection via the first network between said primary access device and said backup access device and further providing said data packet having said destination address replaced with said backup access device datalink address to said backup access device using said direct ISO layer 2 datalink connection.

11. (Currently Amended) A backup system for providing a backup connection between a first network and a second network in response to a failure of a primary connection between said first network and said second network, said backup system comprising:

a backup access device for providing said backup connection and having a device address at the ISO layer 2 datalink layer; and

a primary access device, connected to said backup access device via said first network, providing said primary connection between said first network and said second network and, in response to said failure, replacing the destination address of an incoming data packet, at said datalink layer, with said backup access device datalink address, and transmitting said incoming data packet, with said replaced destination address, to said backup access device over said first network;

whereby said replacing of said destination address with said backup access device datalink address enables the transmittal of said data packet to said second network over said backup connection.

12. (Currently Amended) The backup system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said primary

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access device and said backup access device are connected using an Ethernet network as said first network.

13. (Original) The backup system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first network is a local area network (LAN).

14. (Original) The backup system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said second network is a wide area network (WAN).

15. (Original) The backup system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said primary access device further comprises a domain name server relay.

16. (Original) The backup system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said primary access device further comprises a DHCP server.